GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4480
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
ILLEGAL GROWTH OF POPPY PLANTS
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have discovered illegal growth of Poppy plants in the inaccessible areas in some States;

(b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) Whether any action has been taken to destroy the Poppy plants and to stop its further growth; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There are reports indicating that illicit cultivation of the poppy plants is done in some remote and inaccessible areas of the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Manipur, Arunanchal Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Jharkhand by unscrupulous elements.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the destructions of illegal poppy cultivation carried out by different drug law enforcement agencies, in various States, are as follows:

i) In 2006, illegal poppy plants in about 34 acres area in the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia of West Bengal were destroyed by the State Police.

ii) In 2005, an area of 30 acres of illicit poppy cultivation in Churachanpur District of Manipur was destroyed in the joint operation of Narcotics Control Bureau and Army.

iii) In 2005, 24 cases for illegal possession of poppy plants, poppy capsules and illegal cultivation of poppy plants were detected and 22 persons arrested by the state agencies of Karnataka.

The details of the steps taken to stop further growth of illegal poppy plants are as under:

i) There is a reward policy providing monetary rewards for the detection and destruction of poppy plants undertaken by different agencies.

ii) Narcotics Control Bureau provides for financial assistance to the States to strengthen their anti-narcotic cells in terms of equipments, vehicles and training etc.

iii) Himachal Pradesh Government is working on a study project concerning alternative development strategies to wean away farmers from illicit cultivation of poppy by adopting cultivation of cash crop.